



Lance Cpl. Justin J. Shemanski



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(Left) John Gladden, pitcher for H&SBn. Brew Crew, stares down his opponent as the pitch sails towards him. Gladden's team is one of eight that participated in the 2nd Annual Pre-Season Intramural Softball Tournament held at the Parris Island Sports Complex April 3. (Above) Eric Bryant, second baseman for PMO, makes the catch at second for a quick out. PMO went on to win against Weapons in the final game of the night to become the tournament champions.

# Softball season kicks off with weekend tournament



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Edwin Hidalgo, PMO, connects with a pitch that sent his eighth homerun of the tournament sailing over the left field fence.

## LANCE CPL. JUSTIN J. SHEMANSKI

STAFF WRITER

The Marine Corps Community Services-South Carolina 2nd Annual Pre-Season Softball Tournament kicked off at the Parris Island Sports Complex April 3.

Of the 13 softball teams from Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort and Parris Island participating in this year's intramural softball league, eight of those teams entered into the day-long tournament to see who could come out on top after a several-month break from last year's season.

"Basically, the tournament was put on so all the different teams can get a few games under their belt before the new season starts," said Jeff

Epstein, who has been the intramural sports coordinator aboard the Depot for the last four years.

According to Epstein, the tournament is held in double elimination format with a three-game guarantee. A team who loses it's first two games will get a chance to get in some more playing time against one more opponent before being eliminated, because of the way the win/lose bracket is designed.

"The turn out was great," said Epstein. "Everybody was really happy with how smoothly things ran and I think everyone had a great time as well."

The players seemed to agree with Epstein.

"Jeff [Epstein] has set up a really great program," said

Kimberly Gladden, first baseman for the H&SBn. Brew Crew. "It's very fair the way it's set up and it's a lot of fun too."

"The new season starts Monday so the tournament gives us sort of a feel for who we're up against and shows us where our own team is at as well," said Gladden.

Edwin Hidalgo, third baseman for PMO who hit eight homeruns throughout the day, said the tournament offers good competition and is a great way to start a new season.

PMO went on to win the tournament against Weapons with a final score of 16-14.

"After games all day we're tired, but we still played hard," Hidalgo said.

# Clothing squeaks by Dental's 3-man team 25-23, 25-16



Lance Cpl. Darhonda V. Hall

Turman Baptiste, Clothing, blocks the ball from coming over the net before it even has a chance during an intramural volleyball game at the War Memorial Gym March 31.

## LANCE CPL. DARHONDA V. HALL

STAFF WRITER

Clothing defeated Dental 25-23, 25-16 winning the first two matches of Tri-Command intramural volleyball play at the Depot War Memorial Gym March 31.

Dental played intensely through the duration of the volleyball game despite the fact that Dental was one player down.

"We were giving Clothing a hard time with only three players, and they had four," said Earl Harrison, a Dental player.

Dental's defense and offense came into play in both matches, making the night's volleyball game competitive.

Dental remained ahead until the last couple of plays of the first match, when their competitive edge deteriorated and Clothing started to catch up.

"We started off well, but then we started losing our concentration," said Harrison.

Serves from Clothing coach, Nicholas Underwood, continued to be a sore spot for Dental throughout the game. Dental unsuccessfully attempted to overtake in the first match, but Clothing's quick reflexes rallied them to outplay Dental.

Dental's loss ended up being a big disappointment for the team, however, the team

"We try to make every game fun. It's all about having fun, if you don't have fun, it's not worth playing."

- Stacy Brown, Clothing player

knows how to improve themselves.

"We made some bad mistakes toward the end," said Harrison. "Our team could really work on things like our court coordination and timing."

Both teams expressed the fact that the match was sheer pleasure and friendly competition.

"Overall we had fun and we played well, but I really think we could have won if we had another player," Harrison insisted.

"We try to make every game fun," said Stacy Brown, Clothing player. "It's all about having fun, if you don't have fun, it's not worth playing."

Clothing left the volleyball court with a positive mental attitude, said Underwood.

## MESSHALL, Continued from Page 1

a job well done.

"We take great pride in the opportunity of being able to be recognized by our clients," said Benke. "This is awesome, they all get the same pay and have the same responsibilities, but the distinguishing mark from this mess hall is that they care. [It matters] that they take care of the recruits that come through the door."

Those recruits may seem to look alike and act alike, they may even blend one into the next, but Europe never lets anyone forget what the recruits and the Sodexo employees are here for.

Europe often looks out the window and focuses on the recruits in line, all the while asking himself, "Why am I looking at these recruits?"

"Then it hit me," said Europe. "Six months to a year from now, these guys could be in the desert some place and for a brief moment coming through this line we will be able to touch that person's life. I shared that with the folks here."

"I let them know that these are the guys who are going out to defend your freedom and that we aren't just slopping food, this is something special. If I can get them to understand that side of it, then it will give that much more meaning to what they do," he added.



Lance Cpl. Brian Kester

Major James McCoy (right), director of food services, presents a plaque to the 2nd RTBn. Mess Hall team April 1, after being named Commanding General's Best Mess Hall of the Quarter.

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